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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNHRC](#) [NL](#)  
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/HRC: DUTCH FOLLOWING EU LEAD AT NEW HRC

REF: A. A) STATE 136467

[1](#)B. B) GENEVA 2030

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew J. Schofer; reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) The Dutch see no end to OIC efforts to tar Israel at the HRC. Moreover, they see little prospect of successfully blocking these attempts, given the OIC's 17 votes and the willingness of other HRC members to vote with the OIC.

[1](#)2. (C) Poloff delivered ref A demarche August 23 to Peter van der Vliet, head of Political and Legal Affairs, MFA UN and IFIs Department. Van der Vliet expressed Dutch dismay at the OIC's tactics but offered no ideas for steering the HRC in a more productive direction.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: Ref B, in our view, correctly describes how the EU's emphasis on finding consensus positions at the HRC dilutes the effectiveness of traditional Human Rights advocates, such as the Netherlands. So far, at least, the Dutch appear inclined to follow the EU lead at the HRC rather than steer a separate course, although they recognize how this "lowest-common denominator" approach undermines the principles they are seeking to uphold. End Comment.  
BLAKEMAN